

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
MACON DIVISION

BONNIE MICHELLE SMITH,
*Administrator of the Estate of Dorothy Jean
Morton,*

Plaintiff,
v.

CORTEVA, Inc.,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO.
5:25-cv-00030-TES

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO DISMISS AS MOOT

Before Plaintiff Bonnie Michelle Smith filed her Amended Complaint [Doc. 7], Defendant Corteva, Inc. filed a Motion to Dismiss [Doc. 6] the original Complaint [Doc. 1].

Under black-letter federal law, “an amended complaint supersedes the initial complaint and becomes the operative pleading in the case.” *Lowery v. Ala. Power Co.*, 483 F.3d 1184, 1219 (11th Cir. 2007) (citations omitted). This means that “the original pleading is abandoned by the amendment, and [it] is no longer a part of the pleader’s averments against h[er] adversary.” *Dresdner Bank AG v. M/V Olympia Voyager*, 463 F.3d 1210, 1215 (11th Cir. 2006) (citation omitted); see also *Hoefling v. City of Miami*, 811 F.3d 1271, 1277 (11th Cir. 2016) (initial pleading “bec[o]me[s] a legal nullity”). Further, an

original complaint would still have legal effect if “the amendment specifically refers to or adopts the earlier pleading.” *Varnes v. Local 91, Glass Bottle Blowers Ass’n*, 674 F.2d 1365, 1370 n.6 (11th Cir. 1982) (citation omitted). An amended complaint that does not incorporate the prior pleading, however, moots “the motion to dismiss the original complaint because the motion seeks to dismiss a pleading that has been superseded.” *Wimberly v. Broome*, No. 6:15-cv-23, 2016 WL 3264346, at *1 (S.D. Ga. Mar. 29, 2016) (citing cases).

The Court has reviewed Plaintiff’s Amended Complaint and found no reference to, or adoption of, any allegations set forth in her original Complaint. Therefore, Plaintiff’s Amended Complaint is the sole operative pleading in this case and renders moot Defendant’s pending Motion to Dismiss. Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss [Doc. 6] **as moot**.

SO ORDERED, this 26th day of March, 2025.

S/ Tilman E. Self, III
TILMAN E. SELF, III, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT